

Senate Bill 329 Details

1. The intent of SB 329 is to enhance the authority and ability of elected school board trustees to work in collaboration with their constituents and fellow trustees in other districts to ensure that resources are used to their maximum positive effect on students educated in each school district.
2. Senate Bill 329 will help school districts become ***more efficient without raising taxes.***
3. Senate Bill 329 is designed to remove unnecessary restrictions on elected school boards in supervising and controlling public school districts as intended under the Montana Constitution, helping them operate like a business.
4. Senate Bill 329 ***creates incentives for school districts to collaborate*** together in multi-district arrangements:
 - a. So that ***purchasing power can be maximized;***
 - b. So that ***public resources are used efficiently;*** and
 - c. So that ***smaller school districts can gain the advantage of working with other districts*** on a regional basis to find the best and most efficient means of operation.
5. Senate Bill 329 provides elected school boards with the tools necessary to operate flexibly and efficiently.
6. Senate Bill 329 provides ***important safeguards*** to ensure sound financial practices:
 - a. ***Voter approval required*** to change the use of local funds.
 - b. ***No raising local taxes to backfill money transferred*** from a fund.
 - c. A requirement that school district ***purchasing cooperatives provide opportunities to Montana businesses to expand their markets***, not just in Montana but across the nation.
 - d. ***The leadership of elected school board members***, who have a fiduciary responsibility to their communities to maximize the impact of the community's resources on student achievement.
 - e. Those voting in support of Senate Bill 329 can do so confidently, knowing that the bill will ***increase the efficiency of our public schools without raising taxes.***